

\$5,100 this year to \$7,000 in the year 2002. So how could spending, which increases from \$5,200 a year in 1996 to \$7,200 a year in 2002, be a cut? Nowhere also but in Washington.

Perhaps more than any other issue, President Clinton has hammered away at the GOP's reform proposal by falsely accusing us of cutting Medicare.

It is interesting to think about it that the President, when he was talking about his health care bill back in 1993, this is what he said: "Today, Medicare and Medicaid are going up at three times the rate of inflation. We propose to let it go up at two times the rate of inflation. This is not a Medicare or Medicaid cut. We are going to have increases in Medicare and Medicaid, but a reduction in the rate of growth."

On April 3, 1995, the Medicare Board of Trustees, which includes three of President Clinton's Cabinet Secretaries, concluded that the Medicare hospital insurance fund will be running out of money in 1996 and will be bankrupt in the year 2002.

In its 1996 report released on June 5, it showed a \$4.2 billion shortfall in this trust fund. This means that the program will be bankrupt in the year 2001 instead of 2002, so that should be a concern for all Americans.

Congress and the President are very close now on the level of increased spending on Medicare. In fact, the Republican proposal and the Democrat proposal are practically the same. So for the President to talk about cuts is incorrect, when he and I and the Republican Party have proposed practically the same thing in the amount it increases.

Not only have our efforts to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare been totally misrepresented, but the Speaker has been vilified for a statement which was falsely attributed to him. We hear this repeated on the House floor over and over again. They said he said, "Now we don't get rid of it round one because we don't think that's politically smart. We don't think that's the way to do it through a transition, but we believe it's going to wither on the vine."

He was not talking about Medicare, he was talking about the Health Care Financing Administration. This is more precisely what he said: "Okay, what do you think the Health Care Financing Administration is? It's a centralized government bureaucracy. It's everything we're telling Boris Yeltsin to get rid of. Now, we don't get rid of it in round one."

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So you see, they took the statement of the Speaker out of context. He was not referring, of course, to the Medicare Program. He was talking to Big Government, a Big Government bureaucratic machine that processes the laws around here that deals ultimately

with health care in America but not the Medicare Program.

In fact, this is so true that 19 television stations have pulled or refused to air the AFL-CIO ads that deal with this quote. So I think we should realize that now the media, both the television and radio media, has decided to pull these ads because they are false and totally misleading.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at what the Clinton administration said back when they were running for the Presidency, let us look at their book, "Putting People First." Remember that book? In that book, President Clinton and Vice President GORE said in 1992, "We will scrap the Health Care Financing Administration and replace it with a health standards board made up of consumers, providers, business, labor, and government." That is interesting.

Somehow the press seemed to neglect to report that fact in the book, "Putting People First." The Clinton and GORE team said the same thing which the Speaker said about the Health Care Financing Administration, that ultimately we would like to scrap it. So I do not see how they can actually criticize the Speaker when they said the same thing in their book, "Putting People First."

There is another program in the budget which they have attempted to politicize and misrepresent. I might add, some of the colleagues on this side of the aisle have indicated that we are cutting veterans benefits. This is also false. We have increased veterans benefits. I am a former veteran, my father was a veteran, and I believe that it is important to represent veterans. That is why I am on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

There is some talk about cutting veterans back in the district, but I have pointed out to them that we have actually increased the funding for the veterans, and in fact, the VA budget that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs submitted was higher than the administration's budget. That was brought out in a hearing, during the hearing in which I talked to Secretary Brown about the veterans budget. I said to him, "What do you think about your VA budget compared to our VA budget?" And he said, "I just want to be put on the record, Mr. Chairman, that this committee," the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, "is proposing more than the VA is offering." I think the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has shown its integrity even beyond what the Secretary has proposed.

I think it is admirable that he would go on record pointing out that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has proposed and ultimately passed more money than the administration proposed.

I think that is a credit to the Secretary for being so honest. I thought it was important, Mr. Speaker, to bring these words to the House floor and to present the truth to clear up the misrepresentation on this side of the aisle

with talking about reducing Medicare and veterans benefits when actually, in fact, the Republican majority has increased in both cases the amount of money spent on these two programs.

THE OLYMPIC CHALLENGE FOR AMERICA: TO DRAW TOGETHER AGAINST HATRED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think that it is time, as we near the end of the 100-year anniversary of the modern Olympic games, that we rise to the floor of the House to provide perspective. This weekend should have brought Americans together. Many in different cities around the Nation may have initially thought of the Olympic games as Atlanta's games. But I think as we have watched the indomitable spirit of all of those who have participated, we must first acknowledge that these are world games, and that this is an honor bestowed upon America, our Nation, to be able to host this year's event.

The first recorded Olympics were held every 4 years at the ancient sanctuary in Greece from 1776 B.C. until they were abolished in 394 A.D. They were revived in the late 19th century by French baron Pierre de Coubertin with the first modern games held in Athens in 1896. This year, of course, marks the 100th anniversary.

As we have watched the games proceed, and the challenge to America and to the athletes, it stands in sharp contrast to the tragedy of this past weekend. It saddened me that the games were marred by one tragic incident of a sick and criminal act. It sickens me and saddens me that we lost a very lovely lady who had a 14-year-old daughter who loved her, and a family. Now she is gone from them and from the contributions that she has made and would have made; and then to have lost the life of a Turkish photographer because of this tragedy, and the 111 who were victims of this tragedy.

But most of all, I think we should be challenged by this Olympic challenge, if you will, to recognize that we as Americans must draw together against hatred, hateful talk, and those who would claim that they stand for what America believes in, but yet want to undermine and bring down the government of this country.

Over the last 2 years we have heard too much about what this government has not done. We have heard too much about those who want to carry guns on street corners, who want to hole up in places like Montana or bomb buildings in places like Oklahoma. I think the Olympic challenge for America is to develop the Olympic spirit. That spirit is one of a Carl Lewis, a native Houstonian from the community which I represent; someone who said, as he reflected that many said to him, having

won several medals, eight, to be exact, before this last one, "Go out in a flare. Do not do this to yourself." Carl Lewis, a great humanitarian, a friend to young people, had first of all determination.

Second of all, he was a good sports person. He knew and understood what sportsmanship was all about. He had pride in himself and in his Nation. He believed, as well, in the fact that if he just simply went one more step he might be successful; 27 feet 10 inches and three-quarters. And he had a can-do attitude.

That is the Olympic challenge for America, to rise to the occasion of the U.S. women's gymnast team, something accomplished that none of us would have ever expected; or to have the strength of personality to accept the pain of a Kerri Strug from Houston, TX; or Michael Johnson, from Baylor University in Texas, who will cast his lot to historically do the 200 meters and then 500 meters; and yes, the U.S. women's basketball team, that recognizes that it is valuable to have men and women understand what sportsmanship is all about; and the gold that was won by Shannon Miller.

We as Americans have so much to be proud of; not to point the finger at Atlanta, a city that has done a very able and wonderful job, a job where it has opened its doors to all citizens around the world, representing over 197 countries. It was not that it had a tragic and terrible act, it was a tragic act of a human being gone wrong. We should embrace our sister city and congratulate them, for on behalf of Americans, they have done us proud.

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But more importantly from the Olympic challenge, we should be able to both admire and to accept the challenge given to us by these young athletes from whatever country they have come, that they have shown determination, that they have rejected hatred, that they have embraced each other as brothers and sisters, that they have a can-do attitude, that they worked as a team and, yes, most of all that they have shown the kind of affinity for the law of rules and order that they would respect human life and human dignity. Sadly, someone in this country possibly did not.

And so it behooves this Congress to respond by leadership and recognizing that we disrespect and that we do not hold to violent talk or violent acts and that we join together as a Nation, not dividing, not castigating names but yet recognizing that we stand as one and fall divided. Be proud of Atlanta and what it has done, appreciate the Justice Department, Director Freeh and the FBI for what they have done, know that swift justice and fair justice will be brought to the perpetrator of this terrible act, but the Olympic challenge for America is for us to stand unified behind the Constitution that we all are created equal, that we have inalienable

rights to pursue happiness, and that we must stand for equality and the first amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the wonderful work done by several of the athletes who are from my State of Texas who have brought home the gold.

The news of violence at the Olympics over this weekend could not detract from the Olympic Spirit displayed by the fans and the wonderful collection of talented athletes from around the world, nor should it have.

Each of them are heroes in their resolve not to allow terrorists or hatemongers to take away the unity of purpose that has led us to this point in world history.

The first recorded Olympics were held every 4 years at the ancient sanctuary in Greece from 776 B.C. until they were abolished in 394 B.C. They were revived in the late 19th century by French Baron Pierre de Coubertin with the first modern games held in Athens in 1896.

This year marks the 100th-year-anniversary of the modern olympic games. This is also only the fourth time in modern olympic history that the United States has been the host of the Summer Olympic Games.

The Olympic games are about challenges to the height and breadth of human physical, mental, and emotional endurance.

Today, I would like to recognize the wonderful contributions that Kerri Strug of Houston, TX, one of the members of the U.S. Gymnastics Team dubbed Mag 7 by fans of the sport, who showed real team spirit in assisting her teammates win the team gold medal.

Carl Lewis, who upon the completion of his 27 feet 10 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the long jump, has achieved a record 9 gold medals. He is one of Houston's best known athletic personalities, but he is also a great humanitarian and community supporter of youth athletics.

I will not leave out those who are not from Houston, TX. Michael Johnson of Dallas, TX has also made us all proud as Texans with his gold medal performance in the 400-meter race. I would like to join many well-wishers in extending my hope for a second gold in the 200-meter race to be held later in the games.

I wish all of these fine athletes and their families my warmest congratulations and wish them a speedy and safe return home to Texas.

HOW LONG WILL WE CONTINUE TO WAIT TO SOLVE THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago our Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology held an extensive hearing on what is known as the year 2000 problem. That is a problem for those who have inputted month-day-year in most computers over the last 30 years. Three decades ago, most computers had little capacity for storage. Thus, a 2-digit figure represented the year instead of 4 digits. In other words, instead of 1966, the year was entered 66. So when it comes to the year 2000 and the com-

puter registers 2000, it will only register 00 based on the two spaces for the year software. Thirty years ago it was difficult to find space in a computer and somebody had the bright idea: Let's save at least a few bits of spaces when we put dates in by inputting only the last part of the date, not the century part of the date.

Mr. Speaker, this will be a major problem. It is estimated by Gartner Associates, a major consulting firm, that it will take \$600 billion worldwide to solve this problem. America is responsible for half of the computing usage on this planet, and it will take about \$300 billion for both private and public entities to make the needed conversions. Gartner Associates believes that conversion by the Federal Government might well cost \$30 billion to deal with this matter.

On April 29, I had the staff of the subcommittee send an extensive survey to the 24 Cabinet departments and agencies. We now have the results. In essence, these are some of the results:

1. Major departments are only in the initial planning stages of the Year 2000 effort.

2. Even the most advanced agencies have not reached the final stages of the solution.

3. Only six agencies have any cost estimates.

4. The Department of Defense has not yet completed its inventory of computer software code which needs to be converted.

5. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration does not anticipate having a plan completed until March 1997.

6. The Department of Transportation simply did not respond to the questions as of this date. Some departments started in on this effort the day after our survey arrived. Little attention has been paid to this coming crunch by many in the executive branch.

7. The Department of Energy did not begin to address the Year 2000 issue until a week after they received the subcommittee's survey.

Most of the departments that are in the initial planning stages need to have their systems inventoried and fixed by 1998. If they do not do so by that time, expert resources will be increasingly scarce because the private sector, State and local government will be using those resources to solve their own computer conversion problems.

Various internal codes of our computing equipment need to be changed. Some of it is just reentering the 4-digit year into new software: You would put in 1996, not just 96, so when you hit the year 2000, it is not just 00, but it is 2000 and you can subtract 1996 from 2000.

These Federal departments and agencies must "get with it" over the next year and a half. They need to complete their plans. They need to inventory and fix millions of lines of internal computer code while simultaneously meeting agency goals.

Basically, we asked these agencies if they had a plan, was there a program